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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/009,281	04/19/2002	Hans B. Biserod	PROTEC6.001APC	6078

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

BEHREND, HARVEY E

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3641

DATE MAILED: 09/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. <u>16/009281</u> <u>Bisner ocl</u> Examiner <u>Behrend</u> Group Art Unit <u>3641</u>
<i>--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address--</i>	
Period for Response	
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>one</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). 	
Status	
<input type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.	
<input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL .	
<input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.	
Disposition of Claims	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-14</u> is/are pending in the application.	
Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-14</u> are subject to restriction or election requirement.	
Application Papers	
<input type="checkbox"/> See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.	
<input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is <input type="checkbox"/> approved <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved.	
<input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.	
<input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.	
<input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.	
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).	
<input type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> Some* <input type="checkbox"/> None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.	
<input type="checkbox"/> received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.	
<input type="checkbox"/> received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	
*Certified copies not received: _____.	
Attachment(s)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary, PTO-413	
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited, PTO-892 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152	
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

Office Action Summary

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1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. Applicant is required under 35 USC 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be patentable. Currently, claim 1 is generic.

M. The embodiment wherein the lock retainer comprises a retaining ring having a continuous internal retainer race (as in claim 4).

N. The embodiment wherein the lock retainer comprises a number of separated axially projecting retainers(as in claim 6 and Fig. 5).

2. Upon election of one of the species identified above as M and N, applicant is further required under 35 USC 121 to elect one of the following disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable (currently, claim 1 is generic):

- A. Wherein the lock is in the form of a ball.
- B. Wherein the lock is in the form of a rod.
- C. Wherein the lock is in the form of a chip.
- D. Wherein the lock is in the form of a lug.
- E. Wherein the lock is in the form of a button.

3. Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of each species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An

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argument that a generic claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 USC 103 of the other invention.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harvey Behrend whose telephone number is (703) 305-1831. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone, can be reached on (703) 306-4198. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 306-4195.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-1113.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "HARVEY E. BEHREND". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'H' and 'E'.

Behrend/kn
August 28, 2003

**HARVEY E. BEHREND
PRIMARY EXAMINER**